

DEFINITION OF RANCH RIDING

with each association - straight from their most current rule book as of 3-1-17.

AQHA VRH – SHW560. VRH RANCH RIDING. The purpose of the ranch riding class is to measure the ability of the horse to be a pleasure to ride while being used as a means of conveyance from performing one ranch task to another. The horse should reflect the versatility, attitude and movement of a working ranch horse riding outside the confines of an arena. The horse should be well-trained, relaxed, quiet, soft and cadenced at all gaits. The ideal ranch horse will travel with forward movement and demonstrate an obvious lengthening of stride at extended gaits. The horse can be ridden with light contact or on a relatively loose rein without requiring undue restraint, but not shown on a full drape of reins. The overall manners and responsiveness of the ranch riding horse to make timely transitions in a smooth and correct manner, as well as the quality of the movement are of primary considerations. The ideal ranch riding horse should have a natural head carriage at each gait. SHW560.1 Horses shall be shown individually and the class may be conducted inside or outside of an arena. The pattern may be started either to the right or left direction. Show management has the option to set markers to designate gait changes. If the class is held inside an arena, the course shall be set up to make approximately one pass of the arena in each direction. **The optional ranch riding pattern may be used or another pattern may be used as long as all elements of the class are fulfilled as follows: - Horses will be shown individually at three gaits; walk, trot and lope in each direction of the arena. - Horses will also be asked to reverse, stop and back. - The judge must ask for an extended trot and extended lope at least one direction of the ring.**

SHW560.2 **CREDITS AND PENALTIES.** Part of the evaluation of this class is on smoothness of transitions. A horse may be collected from the extended trot as the horse moves into the lope. The transition from the extended lope down to the trot is a transition to the seated trot not the extended trot. Therefore, an extra cue to achieve this gait is expected. Horses that complete this total transition within three strides calmly and obediently should be rewarded. Horses that attempt to stop or do stop prior to trotting will be penalized. Judges expect to see horses that have been trained to respond to cues. To see these cues applied discretely and the horse responding correctly could be a credit-earning situation. **Penalties will be assessed as follows: - 1 Point:** Over-bridled, out of frame, too slow, gapping mouth, break of gait at walk or trot for two (2) strides or less. - **3 Point:** Wrong lead or out of lead, draped reins, break of gait at lope, break of gait at walk or trot for more than two (2) strides. - **5 Point:** Spurring in front of cinch, blatant disobedience, use of either hand to instill fear/praise, use of two hands per maneuver, 1st or 2nd cumulative refusal, more than one finger between split reins or any fingers between reins (except two rein) per maneuver. Cannot place above others who complete pattern correctly. **(OP) Off-Pattern:** Breaking pattern, leaving working area before pattern is complete, repeated disobedience. Cannot place above others who complete pattern correctly. **Disqualification (DQ):** Lameness, abuse, illegal equipment, disrespect, or misconduct, improper western attire, fall of horse/rider.

SHOT – EV-221 STOCK HORSE PLEASURE CLASS (AQHA VRH Ranch Riding) The purpose of the stock horse pleasure class is to measure the ability of the horse to be a pleasure to ride while being used as a means of conveyance from performing one ranch task to another. The horse should reflect the versatility, attitude and movement of a working ranch horse riding outside the confines of an arena. The horse should be well-trained, relaxed, quiet, soft and cadenced at all gaits. The ideal ranch horse will travel with forward movement and demonstrate an obvious lengthening of stride at extended gaits. The horse can be ridden with light contact or on a relatively loose rein without requiring undue restraint, but not shown on a full drape of reins. The overall manners and responsiveness of the ranch riding horse to make timely transitions in a smooth and correct manner, as well as the quality of the movement are of primary considerations. The ideal stock horse pleasure horse should have a natural head carriage at each gait. EV-221.1 **Gaits • Ordinary Walk** – The stock horse ordinary walk is straight, square, flat-footed, relaxed. The horse moves freely with no anticipation to move to the next gait. • **Extended Walk** – The stock horse extended walk is straight, square, and flat-footed, relaxed, and moves out freely with the horse looking ahead. The extended walk shows more length of stride than the ordinary walk. • **Trot** – The stock horse trot is a square two-beat diagonal trot and is steady, soft, and slow enough for riding long distances. The rider is seated at this gait. • **Extended Trot** – The stock horse extended trot shows

lengthening of stride from the regular trot with the same cadence that will cause an increase in speed. This gait is level, flat, and steady with the appearance that the horse would hold this gait for long distances. The rider may be seated, posting, or standing. • **Lope** – The stock horse lope is a 3-beat gait that is cadenced, straight and steady and is comfortable to ride over long distances. • **Extended Lope** – The stock horse extended lope shows lengthening of stride from the regular lope with the same cadence that will cause an increase in speed. The horse holds the steady gait and increased speed while being under control. • **Stop** – From both the lope and the trot, the horse should be in the correct stopping position (i.e., both hocks engaged and stopping on the hindquarters). 44 45 All four feet stop moving before the next maneuver is attempted. • **Reverse** – The horse turns briskly and flat with front feet on the ground and holding an inside rear pivot foot. The reverse may be performed in either direction. EV-221.2 Horses shall be shown individually and the Class may be conducted inside or outside of an arena. The pattern may be started either to the right or left direction. Markers shall be set up to designate gait changes. If the Class is held inside an arena, the course shall be set up to make approximately one pass of the arena in each direction. **Markers shall be set up to designate gait changes.** **When establishing the course, the following distances between markers are recommended. PATTERN I • Extended Walk - 75 feet • Trot - 120 feet • Extended Trot - 240 feet • Lope - 150 feet • Stop and Reverse • Ordinary Walk - 30 feet • Lope - 150 feet • Extended Lope - 200 feet • Trot - 90 feet • Stop and Back PATTERN II • Ordinary Walk - 30 feet • Lope - 150 feet • Extended Lope - 200 feet • Trot - 120 feet • Stop and Reverse • Extended Walk - 75 feet • Trot - 90 feet • Extended Trot - 240 feet • Lope - 150 feet • Stop and Back.** These distances will make for a fluid class and facilitate judging. **Order of maneuvers may be varied per Judge's discretion but the Stop should not follow the Extended Lope.** Judges are encouraged to walk the course prior to judging. EV-221.3 **Credits and Penalties** Part of the evaluation of this Class is on smoothness of transitions. A horse may be collected a bit from the extended trot as the horse moves into the lope. The transition from the extended lope down to the trot is a transition to the seated trot not the extended trot. Therefore, an extra cue to achieve this gait is expected. Horses that complete this total transition within three strides calmly and obediently should be rewarded. Horses that attempt to stop or do stop prior to trotting will be penalized. Judges expect to see horses that have been trained to respond to cues. To see these cues applied discreetly and the horse responding correctly could be a credit-earning situation. All runs begin upon entering the pen; any infractions (such as two hands on the reins, using either hand to instill fear or praise, etc.) are subject to penalty at that time. Penalties will be assessed as follows: • **1 Point Penalties:** Over-bridled; Out of frame; Too slow; Gaping mouth; Break of gait at Walk or Trot for two (2) strides or less. • **3 Point Penalties:** Wrong lead; Draped reins; Break of gait at Lope; Break of gait at Walk or Trot for more than two (2) strides • **5 Point Penalties:** Spurring in front of cinch; Blatant disobedience; Use of either hand to instill fear/praise; Use of two hands (except in snaffle bit or hackamore) per maneuver; More than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins (except two rein) per maneuver • **Off-Pattern (OP):** Breaking pattern; Repeated disobedience; Leaving working area before pattern is complete; Cannot place above others who complete pattern correctly. • **Disqualification (DQ):** Lameness; Abuse; Illegal equipment; Disrespect or misconduct; Fall of horse/ rider (run ends; scores will be given for work done but the horse/rider team will be disqualified and will not be placed), Improper western attire. Disqualified entries are counted as an entry in the class but cannot receive points or credits for that class toward the all around.

APHA RANCH RIDING *APHA uses the rules of either Stock Horse of Texas (SHOT) OR American Stock Horse Association (ASHA) for conducting and judging their RANCH HORSE CLASSES. APHA Ranch Riding, however, is not considered to be one of the "RANCH HORSE CLASSES" at this time and so is subject to APHA RULES, which can be a bit confusing. Rumor has it that at the recent APHA CONVENTION, it was voted to include RANCH RIDING in the "group" of APHA RANCH HORSE CLASSES being judged by SHOT or ASHA. When (if) this becomes official (in print), ALL FIVE APHA RANCH CLASSES (Ranch Riding, Ranch Pleasure, Ranch Trail, Ranch Reining, Ranch Cow Work) will use the rules of either Stock Horse of Texas (SHOT) OR American Stock Horse Association (ASHA) for conducting and judging their ranch horse classes, including RANCH RIDING. For now, as of April 5, 2017, in APHA RANCH RIDING, **Horses, of all ages, may be shown in a snaffle, bosal, or curb bit. See below.**

SC-302. Ranch Riding Rule Book Change effective date: April 5, 2017. A. The purpose of Ranch Riding should reflect the versatility, attitude, and movement of a working horse. The horse's performance should simulate a horse riding outside

the confines of an arena and that of a working ranch horse. **This class should show the horse's ability to work at a forward, working speed while under control by the rider. Light contact should be rewarded and horse shall not be shown on a full drape of reins. The overall manners and responsiveness of the horse while performing the maneuver requirements, and the horse's quality of movement are the primary considerations.** B. Offered as an all age class for open, amateur, novice amateur, youth and novice youth, and for horses three years of age or older. C. No horse may cross enter into any other western pleasure class at the same show (exception: Ranch Pleasure). **D. CLASS**

REQUIREMENTS: 1. Each horse will work individually, performing both required and optional maneuvers, and scored on the basis of 0 to 100, with 70 denoting an average performance. 2. The required maneuvers will include the walk, trot, and lope both directions; the extended trot and extended lope at least one direction; as well as stops, and back. 3. Three optional maneuvers may include a side pass, turns of 360 or more, change of lead (simple or flying), walk, trot or lope over a pole(s); or some reasonable combination of maneuvers that would be reasonable for a ranch horse to perform. 4. The maneuvers may be arranged in various combinations with final approval by the judge. 5. The overall cadence and performance of the gaits should be as those described in Western Performance Gaits, SC-241, with an emphasis on forward movement, free-flowing, and ground covering for all gaits. **Transitions should be performed where designated, with smoothness and responsiveness.** 6. No time limit. 7. One of the suggested four patterns may be used, however a judge may utilize a different pattern as long as all required maneuvers and the three (or more) optional maneuvers are included.

240 E. Ranch Riding Apparel and Equipment 1. No hoof polish. 2. No braided or banded manes and no artificial hair extensions. 3. Trimming inside ears is discouraged. 4. Trimming bridle path is allowed, also trimming of fetlocks or excessive (long) facial hair. 5. Equipment with silver should not count over a good working outfit. Silver on bridles and saddles is discouraged. **6. It is suggested that competitors use a breast collar and rear cinch. Horses, of all ages, may be shown in a snaffle, bosal, or curb bit. When a bit is used, the mouthpiece must be at least 5/16" and not more than 3/4" in diameter measured one inch from cheek and must be smooth. Nothing may protrude below the mouthpiece such as extensions or prongs. A standard western curb bit must not be longer than 8 1/2 inches measured on the outside length from the top bridle attachment to the rein attachment. The port must not be higher than 3 1/2 inches with rollers and covers acceptable. Broken mouthpieces, halfbreeds and spades are standard. Split reins shall be used with all bits except that a romal is acceptable with a curb bit. Closed reins are not allowed except as standard romal reins or standard mecate reins which include a tie rope with snaffle bit or bosal. Curb straps are required for curb bits and the curb chains or straps must be at least 1/2 inch in width and must lie flat against the horse's chin. No wire curbs are permitted, regardless of the amount of padding or tape. Absolutely no iron will be permitted under the jaws.**

Prohibited equipment includes tie downs, cavessons, gag bits, mechanical hackamores and running martingales. F. Ranch Riding Penalties. A contestant shall be penalized each time the following occur: 1. One (1) point penalties a. Too slow/per gait b. Over-Bridled c. Out of Frame d. Break of gait at walk or jog for 2 strides or less e. Split log at lope 2. Three (3) point penalties a. Break of gait at walk or trot for more than 2 strides b. Break of gait at lope c. Wrong lead or out of lead d. Draped reins e. Severe disturbance of any obstacle f. Out of lead or cross-cantering more than two strides when changing leads, trotting more than three strides when making a simple lead change. 3. Five (5) point penalties a. Blatant disobedience (kick, bite, buck, rear, etc.) b. Each refusal 4. Placed below horses performing all maneuvers a. Eliminates maneuver b. Incomplete maneuver 5. Zero (0) score a. Illegal equipment (including hoof black, braided or banded manes or tail extensions) b. Willful abuse c. Major disobedience or schooling

ASHA – EV-110 ASHA Stock Horse Pleasure Class (Ranch Riding). This class serves to measure the ability of the horse to be functional and a pleasure to ride while being used as means of conveyance from one task to another. This horse should be well-broke, relaxed, quiet, soft, and cadenced at all gaits. The horse should be ridden on a relatively loose rein with light contact and without requiring undue restraint. Excessively long floppy reins will not be given extra credit. The horse should be responsive to the rider and make all required transitions smoothly, timely, and correctly. The horse should be soft in the bridle and yield to contact. **Horses shall be shown individually at the walk, trot, and lope in both directions. The walk, trot and lope will be extended in one direction only.** The class should be conducted inside of an arena. An arena provides good footing for stops in the pattern. The pattern may be started either to the right or left direction. The order of gaits shall be: 1) Extended Walk 2) Trot 3) Extended Trot 4) Lope 5) Stop and

Reverse 6) Ordinary Walk 7) Lope 8) Extended Lope 9) Trot 10) Stop and Back. **At the preference of the rider, the extended trot may be ridden with the rider posting, sitting, or standing in the stirrups, to the front of the saddle. Holding the saddle horn is permissible at the extended trot only.** Preference should not be given by the judge for any method of showing, as emphasis should be on the performance of the horse and how effective the horse is at actually extending the trot and the mannerisms and responsiveness to the rider. **Individual markers shall be set up to designate gait changes. When establishing or setting up markers, the following distances are recommended. These distances will make for a more fluid class to be exhibited and facilitate ease in judging. In smaller arenas, it may be necessary to adjust the course to get distances similar to those recommended. 1) Extended Walk-75 feet 2) Trot-120 feet 3) Extended Trot-240 feet 4) Lope-150 feet 5) Stop and Reverse 6) Ordinary Walk-30 feet 7) Lope-150 feet 8) Extended Lope-200 feet 9) Trot-90 feet 10) Stop and Back.** The judge shall walk the pleasure class and approve the markers for distances. The judge shall judge the pleasure class from the center of the arena except in extreme circumstances.

A. Description of Ideal Pleasure Gaits. The ideal pleasure horse will have a level head carriage at each gait- neither too high nor too low.

1) Extended Walk – A stock horse pleasure walk should be straight, square flat footed, relaxed and should move out freely with horse looking ahead. The extended walk should show more length of stride than the ordinary walk. **2) Trot** – This gait should be a square two-beat diagonal trot. The trot should be steady, soft, and slow enough for riding long distances. Trots which are rough and hard to sit should be penalized. **3) Extended Trot** – The extended trot should show an evident lengthening of stride from the regular trot with the same cadence that will cause an increase in speed. This trot should be level, flat, and steady with the appearance that the horse would hold this gait for an extended distance. **4) Lope** – This gait should be a three-beat gait that is cadenced, straight and steady, and is comfortable to ride over long distances. **5) Stop** (from both lope and trot) – The horse should be in the correct stopping position – both hocks engaged and stopping on the hindquarters. **6) Reverse** – A horse should turn briskly and flat with the front feet on the ground and holding an inside rear pivot foot. **7) Ordinary Walk** – A stock horse pleasure walk should be straight, square, flat footed, relaxed, and should move out freely with no anticipation to move to the next gait. **8) Extended Lope** – This gait should be an obvious lengthening of stride from the previous lope, be at the same cadence and cause an increase in speed. The gait needs to be steady, quiet, and holding the increased speed while being under control. **Part of the evaluation of this class is on smoothness of transitions.** There is no advantage to making these transitions with cues that are imperceptible to a judge. Judges expect to see horses that have been trained to respond to cues. To see these cues applied discretely and the horse responding correctly could be a credit earning situation. All transitions should be smooth without undue fuss from the horse. **Please note that the rules allow for a horse to be taken back (collected) a bit from the extended trot as the horse moves into the lope. The transition from the extended lope down to the trot is very difficult to achieve, however, a good stock horse will have to make this transition several times during a day's work. This transition is down to the normal or sitting trot not the extended trot.** Therefore, an extra cue to achieve this gait is expected. Horses that complete this total transition within three strides calmly and obediently should be rewarded. Horses that bring the hocks together to go into a stopping position should be penalized according to the magnitude of the error.

B. Scoring Stock Horse Pleasure. Each gait, including transitions toward that gait, will be scored from 1-10. There will be 5 scores in each direction for a total of 10 scores and a maximum of 100 points for each horse's work. The scoring for each maneuver, including transitions, is as follows: 1-4 points = major faults such as wrong lead, broken gait, lack of control, very poor quality of gait, failure to perform requested gait. 5-7 points = average quality of movement of gaits and transitions with minor or no faults. 8-10 = High quality mover that is functionally correct in gaits and transitions. Well-mannered and responsive.

NVRHA - E. Ranch Riding The following terminology shall apply: **1. Gaits:** The **walk** is a natural, flat-footed, four-beat gait. The horse must move straight and true at the walk. The walk must be alert, with a stride of reasonable length in keeping with the size of the horse. The **jog** is a ground covering a two beat diagonal gait. The jog should be square, balanced and straight, forward movement of the feet. When extending the jog, the horse moves out with the same smooth way of going. The **lope** is an easy rhythmic three beat gait. A four beat gait is to be penalized. The horse should

lope with a natural stride and appear relaxed and smooth. The head should be carried at a natural angle suitable to the horse's conformation at all gaits. When extending the lope, the horse moves out with the same smooth way of going. A horse will be given credit for traveling with his head held in a normal position, ears alert and moving at a natural speed for the gait requested. Credit will also be given for making a smooth transition between the gaits, for keeping the correct lead, and for maintaining the gait in the pattern. A rider must show his horse with only one hand on the reins, unless the horse is 5 years old or younger and is being shown in a snaffle bit or hackamore (bosal).

2. Way Of Go: A good Ranch Riding horse has a free flowing stride of reasonable length in keeping with his conformation. He should cover a reasonable amount of ground with little effort. Ideally, he should have a balanced, flowing motion, while exhibiting correct gaits that are of the proper cadence. The quality of the movement and the consistency of the gaits is a major consideration. He should carry his head and neck in a relaxed, natural position, with his poll level with or slightly above the level of the withers. He should not carry his head behind the vertical, giving the appearance of intimidation, or be excessively nosed out, giving a resistant appearance. His head should be level with his nose slightly in front of the vertical, having a bright expression with his ears alert. He should be responsive, yet smooth, in transitions when called for. When asked to extend, he should move out with the same flowing motion. Maximum credit should be given to the flowing, balanced, and willing horse that gives the appearance of being a pleasure to ride.

3. Patterns: NVRHA Ranch Riding consists of pattern work only which is ridden individually. **The Ranch Riding patterns are designed to evaluate the rider's ability to execute, in concert with their horse, a set of maneuvers with precision and smoothness while exhibiting poise and confidence, and maintaining a balanced, functional and fundamentally correct body position. The pattern is extremely precise with the rider and horse working in complete unison, executing each maneuver with subtle aids and cues.** The horse's head and neck should be carried in a relaxed, natural position, with the poll level with or slightly above the withers. The horse/rider team will be judged on the different elements of the patterns and for performing the patterns in the correct order. See APPENDIX XIII for patterns. **Faults to be scored according to severity:**

- a) Excessive speed (any gait)
- b) Being on the wrong lead (-3)
- c) Breaking gait (-1 to -3) (-3 for 2 strides or more)
- d) Excessive slowness in any gait, loss of forward momentum (resulting in an animated and/or artificial gait at the lope)
- e) Touching horse or saddle with free hand at any time other than at an extended trot.
- f) Head carried too high
- g) Head carried too low (tip of ear below the withers)
- h) Over-flexing or straining neck in head carriage so the nose is carried behind the vertical
- i) Excessive nosing out
- j) Opening mouth excessively
- k) Stumbling
- l) Use of spurs forward of the cinch
- m) If a horse appears sullen, dull, lethargic, emaciated, drawn or overly tired
- n) Quick, choppy or pony-strided,
- o) If reins are draped to the point that light contact is not maintained,
- p) Overly canted at the lope, (when the outside hind foot is further to the inside of the arena than the inside front foot).

ARHA - SECTION M-1. RANCH RIDING *ARHA RANCH RIDING IS A RAIL PLEASURE CLASS. PLEASE SEE RANCH RAIL PLEASURE.

DEFINITION OF RANCH (RAIL) PLEASURE

with each association - straight from their most current rule book as of 3-1-17.

ARHA - SECTION M-1. RANCH RIDING (*ALTHOUGH THIS CLASS IS LABELED RANCH RIDING, IT IS A RAIL CLASS WITH ALL OF THE HORSES FROM THE CLASS IN THE ARENA AT THE SAME TIME AND THERE IS NO EXTENDED LOPE.) (Open, Amateur, Youth, Novice Amateur & Novice Youth Division) Novice Amateur class will be offered only in All Age, Novice Youth will only be offered in Youth 18 & Under. **DESCRIPTION: A superior ranch riding horse has a free-flowing stride of reasonable length in keeping with his conformation and covering a reasonable amount of ground as if he was going across the pasture to do a task on the ranch in a timely fashion.** Horse should not be a run-away but “we” have a lot to do today. Ideally, he should have a balanced, flowing motion, while exhibiting correct gaits with proper cadence and rhythm. The quality of the movement and consistency of the gaits are a major consideration. Exhibitor should not be penalized for picking up reins or moving horse's body if horse is soft, willing and free of resistance but should receive credit. Horse should be credited for softness when picking up through transitions, departures, stops, and back-ups. (This should not be confused with constant pulling and jerking around the arena as this shall be faulted according to severity). A willing horse will not ring their tail, or be blatantly disobedient to the rider's cues or demands. The horse should drive off his hind quarters using it as a driving force for his body. The horse should not carry his head behind the vertical, giving the appearance of intimidation, or be excessively nosed out, giving the appearance of resistance. He should have a bright expression with his ears alert, he should be mannerly without the appearance of a dull, sullen lethargic drawn or overly tired attitude. He should be shown on a reasonable loose rein, but with light contact and control. He should be responsive, yet smooth, in transitions when called for. When asked to extend, he should move out with the same flowing motion. Maximum credit should be given to the horse that has a flowing stride, is balanced, and that gives the appearance of being willing, fit, alert and a pleasure to ride while possessing great athletic ability and agility. **This class will be judged on the performance, athletic ability, condition and conformation of the horse.** **A) Horses must work both ways of the ring at all three gaits to demonstrate their ability with different leads. At the option of the judge, horses may be asked to extend the walk and the jog, one or both ways of the ring.** The extended jog is a definite two-beat lengthening of the stride, covering more ground. Cadence and balance with smoothness are more essential than speed. **Passing is permissible and should not be penalized as long as the horse maintains a proper and even cadence and rhythm. Horses are required to back easily and stand quietly.** **B) Horses are to be reversed to the inside (away from the rail). They may be required to reverse at the walk or jog at the discretion of the judge, but shall not be asked to reverse at the lope.** C) Judge may ask for additional and individual(s) work of the same nature from any horse. D) Rider shall not be required to dismount except in the event the judge wishes to check equipment. E) Horses are to be shown at a walk, jog and lope on a reasonably loose rein or light contact without undue restraint. Judges at their discretion may also ask for an extended trot. G) **Faults to be scored according to severity:** 1) Excessive speed (any gait) 2) Being on the wrong lead 3) Breaking gait (including not walking when called for) 4) Excessive slowness in any gait, loss of forward momentum (resulting in an animated and/or artificial gait at the lope) 5) Failure to take the appropriate gait when called for (during transitions, excessive delay will be penalized) 6) Over flexing or straining neck in carriage so that the nose is behind the vertical. 7) Excessive nosing out 8) Opening/gapping mouth excessively 9) Stumbling 10) Use of spur in front of the cinch 11) If horse appears sullen, dull, lethargic, emaciated, drawn or overly tired. 12) Quick, choppy or pony-strided. 13) Overly canted at the lope (Horses which lope with haunches in towards the center of arena). 14) Excessive head bobbing. 15) Excessive ringing of tail. H) **Credits:** 1) Natural ground covering gaits 2) Consistency at all gaits 3) Smooth upward and downward transitions 4) Work on reasonably loose rein without excessive cueing to maintain moderate pace 5) Giving the appearance of being able to do a days work 6) Athletic Ability/Agile 7) Softness of horses' chin, poll, neck, shoulder, body, hip and being broke through thru the whole body. I) **Disqualifications** 1) Grabbing the saddle horn or any other part of the saddle. 2) Illegal use of hands on reins. 3) Use of prohibited equipment. **SECTION M-2. SNAFFLE BIT REQUIREMENTS** 1. Two Year Old Ranch Riding class cannot be offered before June 1st of the year for which approval is requested. 2. Two year old ranch riding classes the horse must be shown with a hackamore, snaffle or snaffle with mecate reins. 3. Reins are to be attached

above the curb strap. Curb strap must be leather (no chain). 4. The tails of the reins must be crossed on the opposite side of the neck when riding with two (2) hands on split reins. The exhibitor's Hands should be carried by the pommel and the reins should be bridged, so both reins are in each hand. 5. A braided rawhide or leather bosal may be used in lieu of a snaffle bit, no larger than 3/4 inch diameter at the cheek; must be a minimum of a one-finger space, approximately 3/4 inch, between the bosal and the nose; absolutely no metal under the jaw or in the nose band in connection with the bosal. The bosal should be properly fitted relative to size and conformation of the horse. A complete mecate rein, which includes a tie-rein, is mandatory with a bosal. 6. Specifics on acceptable snaffle bits refer to Section I-30 #B. 7. If class is held exclusively for hackamore or snaffle bit junior horses, two hands must be used. 8. A horse may be entered in both the Junior Ranch Riding and the Two Year Old Ranch Riding (after June 1) at the same show. **SECTION M-3. PERFORMANCE GAITS** The following terminology is a description of ranch riding gaits: **A) THE WALK & EXTENDED WALK:** 1. Poor Walk: uneven pace and no cadence. Has no flow and may appear intimidated or appear to march. Never lengthens stride, lack of ground covering. 2. Average Walk: has a four-beat gait, level top line and is relaxed. 2a. Average Extended Walk: Moves up in pace/covers more ground. 3. Good Walk: has a flowing four-beat gait, level top line, relaxed and is bright and attentive. 3a. Good Extended Walk: covers reasonable amount of ground; obvious lengthening in stride while being effortless for the horse. **B) THE JOG & EXTENDED JOG:** 1. Unacceptable Jog: cannot perform a two-beat gait and has no flow or balance in the motion. 2. Poor Jog: hesitant motion. Does not keep even and balanced motion or has negative characteristics such as walking behind, dragging rear toes or taking uneven length of stride with the front and rear legs. 2a. Poor Extended Jog: never lengthens stride and may appear to be rough to ride 3. Good Jog: is comfortable to ride while having a consistent two-beat gait. The horse guides well and appears to be relaxed. 3a. Average Extended Jog: moves up in its pace and appears to be smooth to ride. 4. Excellent Jog: effortless and very efficient motion. He has a bright and alert expression and exhibits more lift and self carriage, Shows confidence, yet soft with its motion while being balanced and under control. 4a. Excellent Extended Jog: has obvious lengthening of stride with a slight increase in pace while exerting less effort and appears smooth to ride. **C) THE LOPE:** 1. Poor Lope: does not have a three-beat gait. No flow, rhythm or balance. Uncomfortable to ride. 2. Average Lope: has a true three-beat gait with very little head and neck motion. He guides well and has a relaxed appearance. 3. Good Lope: has more lift and flow than average horse. Has a strong but smooth drive from behind. Steady top line, relaxed appearance and is responsive to rider's aids. Appears to be comfortable to ride. 4. Excellent Lope: has a round back with an effortless strong, deep stride with the rear legs and a flat swinging with the front legs. Horse has a great degree of lift and self-carriage and is relaxed yet alert and confident. **D) THE BACK-UP:** 1. Poor Back-up: is resistant and heavy in front. May gap mouth and throw his head or back crooked. 2. Average Back-up: backs straight and quietly with light contact and without hesitation. 3. Good Back-up: displays balance and smooth flowing movements. Backs straight with self-carriage without gapping mouth with light contact and without hesitation. *****NOTE This class, even though labeled Ranch Riding, is really a "Rail Pleasure" class and does not include an extended lope.*****

AQHA, APHA, SHOT, ASHA, & NVRHA do not have a description for RANCH RAIL PLEASURE IN THEIR RULEBOOKS.

DEFINITION OF RANCH HORSE TRAIL

with each association - straight from their most current rule book as of 3-1-17.

AQHA VRH SHW561.VRH RANCH TRAIL. The ranch trail class should test the horse's ability to cope with situations encountered while being ridden through a pattern of obstacles generally found during the course of everyday ranch work. The horse/rider team is judged on the correctness, efficiency and pattern accuracy with which the obstacles are negotiated and the attitude and mannerisms exhibited by the horse. Judging emphasis is on identifying the well-broke, responsive and well mannered horse which can correctly navigate and negotiate the course. SHW561.1 The ranch trail course will include **no less than six and no more than nine obstacles**. It is mandatory that the horse be asked to walk, trot and lope during the course. Walk can be part of obstacle score or be scored with the approaching obstacle. Trot must be at least 35 feet and score with approaching obstacle. Lope must be lead-specific, at least 50 feet and score with approaching obstacle. Care must be exercised to avoid setting up any obstacles that may be hazardous to the horse or rider. SHW561.2 When setting courses, management will be mindful that the idea is not to trap a horse/rider team or eliminate it by making an obstacle too difficult. **All courses and obstacles are to be constructed with safety in mind** so as to reduce the risk for accidents. Show committee shall have the option of setting up the trail course to best fit the arena conditions. An outdoor course is recommended if appropriate terrain is available. Each single-performance event can be time consuming, especially with large classes, so it is imperative that time restrictions are placed on this class. The show committee, either through a pilot run or estimation, shall select a course that has a continuous and positive flow that can be negotiated in four minutes or less. Judges must walk the course and have the right and duty to alter the course if it is not in keeping with the intent of the class. Judges may remove or change any obstacles they deem unsafe, non-negotiable or unnecessarily difficult. Any time a trail obstacle becomes unsafe during a class, it shall be repaired or removed from the course. If the course cannot be repaired and some horses have completed the course, the score for that obstacle shall be deducted from all previous draws in that class. SHW561.4 **The course must be designed using the mandatory obstacles and maneuvers plus optional obstacles. Combining two or more of the obstacles is acceptable.** SHW561.5 **PROHIBITED OBSTACLES:** Tarps, water obstacles with slick bottoms, PVC pipe used as a jump or walk over, tires, rocking or moving bridges, logs elevated in a manner that permits such to roll in a dangerous manner. SHW561.6 **MANDATORY OBSTACLES AND/OR MANUEVERS. 1. Ride over obstacles on the ground (usually logs).** Walk, trot or lope may be used but only one gait is required. - Walk-overs: Walk over no more than five logs no more than 10 inches high and spacing between 26 – 30 inches. The formation may be straight, curved, zigzagged or raised. - Trot-overs: Trot over no more than five logs no more than 10 inches high. The space between logs or poles should be 36-42 inches. The formation can also be straight, curved, zigzagged or raised. - Lope-overs: Lope over no more than five logs no more than 10 inches high. The space between logs should be 6 to 7 feet. The formation can also be straight, curved, zigzagged or raised. **2. Opening, passing through and closing gate:** Use gate that will not endanger horse or rider and requires minimum side-passing. **3. Ride over wooden bridge:** Bridge should be sturdy, safe and negotiated at a walk only. Heavy plywood lying flat on the ground is an acceptable simulation of a bridge. Suggested minimum width shall be 36 inches wide and at least 6 feet long. **4. Backing obstacles:** Backing obstacles are to be spaced at a minimum of 28 inches. If elevated, 30 inch spacing is required. Back through and around at least three makers. Back through L, V, U or straight or similarly shaped course which may be elevated no more than 24 inches. **5. Side-pass obstacle:** Any object which is safe and of any length may be used to demonstrate responsiveness of the horse to leg signals. Raised side pass obstacles should not exceed 12 inches. **6. Drag an object:** For open, cowboy and amateur classes ONLY. The drag is not to be used in youth classes. Drag may be a complete figure eight and may begin in either direction. The exhibitor must have the rope dallied on the saddle horn (half or full dally) for the duration of the drag. SHW561.7 **OPTIONAL OBSTACLES.** Optional obstacles may be used provided the obstacles can be found in everyday ranch work. Optional obstacles from which selections can be made include, but are not limited to: - **A jump obstacle** whose center height is not less than 14 inches high or more that 25 inches high. Holding the saddle horn is permissible for this obstacle. - Only live or stuffed **animals** which would normally be encountered in an outdoor setting may be used but not to be used in an attempt to "spook" a horse. - **Carry object** from one part of the arena to another. - remove and replace materials from a **mailbox**. - Trot through **cones** spaced a minimum of 6 feet apart. - Cross **natural ditches** or ride up embankments. - Swing rope or

throw rope at a dummy steer head. - **Step in and out of obstacle.** - Put on **slicker** or coat. - Stand to mount with **mounting block.** - Walk through **water obstacle.** - **Open gate on foot.** - **Pick up feet.** - **Walk through brush.** - **Ground tie.** (Hobbles are allowed) - **Lead at the trot.** SHW561.8 At show management option the competition trail course is not to be made available to exhibitors or posted prior to the day of competition. It must be posted at least one hour prior to competition. Printed handouts for exhibitors are helpful and encouraged. SHW561.9 **CREDITS AND PENALTIES.** All runs begin upon entering the pen and any infractions are subject to penalty at that time (such as two hands on the reins, using either hand to instill fear or praise, etc.). The rider has the option of eliminating any obstacle, however this will result in being "off pattern" (OP) and the horse/rider team may not place above others who have completed the pattern correctly. A judge may ask a horse to pass on an obstacle after three refusals or at any time for safety concerns. SHW561.10 Credit is given to horse/rider teams who negotiate the obstacles correctly and efficiently. Horses should receive credit for showing attentiveness to obstacles and ability to negotiate through the course when the obstacles warrant it while willingly responding to rider's cues on more difficult obstacles. Quality of movement and cadence should be considered part of the maneuver score for the obstacle. Penalties are assessed as follows: - **1 Point Penalties:** Each hit, bite or stepping on a log, cone, plant, or any component of the obstacle, incorrect or break of gait at walk or trot for two (2) strides or less; both front or hind feet in a single-stride slot or space at a walk or trot; skipping over or failing to step into required space; split pole in lope-over; incorrect number of strides, if specified; one step on dismount or ground tie except shifting to balance. - **3 Point Penalties:** Wrong lead or out of lead; draped reins; break of gait at lope; break of gait at walk or trot for more than two (2) strides; two to three steps on dismount on ground tie. - **5 Point Penalties:** Spurring in front of cinch; blatant disobedience; use of either hand to instill fear/praise; use of two hands per maneuver; more than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins per maneuver (except two rein); knocking over, stepping out of or falling off an obstacle; dropping an object required to be carried; 1st or 2nd cumulative refusal; letting go of gate, four or more steps on dismount or ground tie. - **Off-Pattern (OP):** Breaking pattern; leaving working area before pattern is complete; 3rd refusal; repeated blatant disobedience. Exhibitors cannot place above others who complete pattern correctly. - **Disqualification (DQ):** Lameness, abuse, illegal equipment, disrespect or misconduct, improper western attire; fall of horse/rider.

APHA RANCH TRAIL *APHA uses the rules of either Stock Horse of Texas (SHOT) or American Stock Horse Association (ASHA) for conducting and judging their ranch horse classes, including Ranch Trail. *See SHOT-EV-222 STOCK HORSE TRAIL CLASS (AQHA VRH Ranch Trail) or ASHA-EV 175 ASHA Stock Horse Trail Class.

SHOT - EV-222 STOCK HORSE TRAIL CLASS (AQHA VRH Ranch Trail) *See AQHA VRH SHW561.VRH RANCH TRAIL.

ASHA – EV 175 ASHA Stock Horse Trail Class. A horse is ridden through a pattern of obstacles which should nearly approximate those found during the course of everyday work. The horse is judged on the cleanliness, neatness, and promptness with which the obstacles are negotiated, ability to negotiate obstacles correctly and attitude and mannerisms exhibited by the horse while negotiating the course. Emphasis on judging should be on identifying the well-broke responsive, well-manned horse which can correctly negotiate the course. Management, when setting courses, should keep in mind that the idea is not to trap a horse, or eliminate it by making an obstacle too difficult. All courses and obstacles are to be constructed with safety in mind so as to eliminate any accidents. **A. COURSE REQUIREMENTS, DEVELOPMENT, & POSTING.** 1) The trail class should be conducted on natural terrain outside of an arena if at all possible. An outside natural terrain provides a more realistic setting in which a horse may negotiate a pattern of obstacles. This tests the horses's ability to cope with many situations encountered in everyday riding. In case of inclement weather or extenuating circumstances, the trail class may be held in an arena after another class has been completed or before another class has been initiated. 2) **Course will include no less than six and no more than nine**

obstacles. It is mandatory that the horse be asked to walk, trot, and lope during the course. The walk can be part of obstacle score and scored with approaching obstacle. The trot should be at least 35 ft and scored with approaching obstacle. The lope should be at least 50 ft and scored with approaching obstacle and be lead specific. 3) Care must be exercised to avoid setting up of any obstacles that may be hazardous to the horse or rider. 4) No extra verbal instructions may be given to exhibitors by management or judge that is not written in course description. Since exhibitors in ASHA shows may be riding up and completing their trail course individually, there will not be a time that all exhibitors can hear or know about extra instructions or credits that the judge might want to use. Any instructions to the exhibitors must be written on the trail pattern and posted before the beginning of the trail competition. 5) Show committees have the option of setting up the trail course to best fit their conditions. Each single performance event can be time-consuming, so it is imperative that time restrictions are placed on this class. The show committee, either through a pilot run or estimation, shall select a course that has a continuous positive flow that can be negotiated in a reasonable amount of time (4 minutes or less). 6) Judges must walk the course and have the right and duty to alter the course if it is not in keeping with the intent of the ASHA trail class. Judges may remove or change any obstacle they deem unsafe, non-negotiable, or unnecessarily difficult. If any time a trail obstacle becomes unsafe during a class, it shall be repaired or removed from the course. If it cannot be repaired and some horses have completed the course, the score for that obstacle shall be deducted from all previous works for that class. **7) The actual trail course cannot be made available to exhibitors or posted prior to the day of competition, but must be posted at least one hour prior to competition.** Printed handouts for contestants is helpful and encouraged. 8) The course may be walked on foot by the exhibitor or, in the case of outdoor courses, be observed from the outside of the course on horseback, but no horse/rider exhibitors are allowed on the actual course after it has been set until their trail run begins. **B. TRAIL CLASS OBSTACLE REQUIREMENTS:** 1) **Course must be designed using the mandatory obstacles and maneuvers plus optional obstacles. Combining of two or more of any obstacles is acceptable.** 2) **Prohibited obstacles:** Tarps, water obstacles with slick bottoms, PVC pipe used as a jump or walk over, tires, rocking or moving bridges, logs or poles elevated in a manner that permits such to roll in a dangerous manner. Animals (live or stuffed) should only be used which would normally be encountered in an outdoor setting and which are not used in an attempt to “spook” a horse. 3) **Mandatory obstacles or maneuvers:** a. **Ride over obstacles on the ground** – usually logs or poles. It is recommended that all three gaits (walk, trot, lope) be used, however only two gaits are required. 1) **Walk-overs.** Walk over no more than 5 logs or poles. The space between logs for walk-overs should be 20-24” apart and no more than 10” high. These can also be in a straight line, curved, zigzagged, or raised. 2) **Trot-Overs.** Trot over no more than 5 logs or poles. The space between trot-overs should be 36-42”. Poles may be elevated a maximum of 10”. These can also be in a straight line, curved, zigzagged, or raised. 3) **Lope-Overs.** Lope over no more than 5 poles. The space between lope-overs should be 6 feet to 7 feet. Poles may be elevated a maximum of 10”. These can also be in a straight line, curved, zigzagged, or raised. b. **Opening, passing through, and closing gate.** A gate should be used that will not endanger horse or rider and requires minimum side passing. c. **Ride over wooden bridge.** (Suggested minimum width shall be 3 feet wide and at least 6 feet long). Bridge should be sturdy, safe, and negotiated at a walk only. Heavy plywood lying flat on the ground is an acceptable simulation of a bridge. d. **Backing obstacles** – backing obstacles are to be spaced a minimum of 28” spacing. If elevated, 30” spacing is required. Back through and around at least three markers. Back through L, V, U, straight or similar shaped course. May be elevated no more than 24”. e. **Side pass obstacle** – Any object which is safe and of any length may be used to demonstrated responsiveness of the horse to leg signals. Raised side pass obstacles should not exceed 12”. f. **Rope drag** – For Open, Non-pro, LTD Non-pro, and Green Horse Classes ONLY. A rope drag is not to be used in Novice or Youth classes. Drag must be a complete figure eight and may begin either direction UNLESS the drawn pattern or written directions specify or indicate which direction to go. The rider must dally the rope on the saddle horn at the beginning of the maneuver and leave it dallied until the obstacle is completed. g. **Green Horse** – Distances may be adjusted for green horses only, if so desired. 4) **Optional obstacles:** New obstacles may be added at any time, we welcome any new and different test which members may come up with provided they can be found in everyday ranch work. Following is a list of optional obstacles from which selections can be made, but not limited to: 1) **Jump** – An obstacle whose center height is not less than 14” high or more than 24” high. Holding the saddle horn is permissible for this obstacle, 2) **Carry object** from one part of the arena to another, 3) remove and replace materials from the **mailbox**, 4) Trot through cones – spacing to be minimum of 6 feet, 5) Cross natural **ditches**

or up embankments, 6) Using rope - **throw rope** at dummy steer head, 7) Step in and out of **water obstacle**, 8) Put on **slicker** or coat, 9) Stand to mount with **mounting block**, 10) Walk over **water obstacle**, 11) **Open gate on foot**, 12) **Pick up feet**, 13) **Walk through brush**, 14) **Ground Tie**, or 15) **Lead at the trot**. **B Scoring Stock Horse Trail**. The rider has the option of eliminating an obstacle and taking a score of "0" for the missed obstacle. A judge may ask a horse to pass on an obstacle after three refusals or for safety concerns. **Trail Credits**: Credit is given to horses negotiating the obstacles with style and some degree of speed, providing correctness is not sacrificed. Horse should receive credit for showing attentiveness to obstacles and capability of picking their own way through the course when the obstacles warrant it, and willingly responding to the rider's cues on more difficult obstacles. Quality of movement and cadence should be part of the maneuver score for the obstacle. **Trail deductions**: Minor deductions – Artificial appearance and/or unnecessary delay while approaching or going through obstacles, Each tick of an obstacle, Break of gait at walk or jog, Placing both front or hind feet in a single-strided slot or space, Skipping over or failing to step into a required space, Split pole in lope-over, Stepping on a log, pole, cone, or obstacle. Major deductions – Wrong lead or breaking gait at lope, Stepping outside the confines of , falling off or out of an obstacle such as a back thru, bridge, side pass, box, or water box, Refusals, balk, or attempting to evade an obstacle by shying or backing, Blatant disobedience (kicking out, backing, rearing, striking), Failure to ever demonstrate correct lead or gait, if designated, Failure to complete obstacle.

NVRHA - F. Ranch Trail This class contains a **course with seven (7) obstacles** and 3 gaits and is designed to show a horse's ability and willingness to perform several tasks that might be asked of him during the course of a normal day's ranch work. This class will be judged on the performance of the horse over obstacles, with emphasis on manners, response to the rider and quality of movement. Credit will be given to horses negotiating the obstacles with style. Horses should receive credit for showing attentiveness to the obstacles and the capability of picking their own way through the course when obstacles warrant it, and willingly responding to the rider's cues on more difficult obstacles. Whenever possible, realistic or natural obstacles are encouraged. Also, the course is encouraged to be set outside of an arena using the natural terrain of the land whenever possible. The horse will be judged on three gaits (walk, trot and lope) performed during the pattern. A horse will be rewarded with higher maneuver scores for performing these gaits on the correct lead and with an alert attitude. Horses are to be shown at a ground covering walk, working trot and lope. A distance of at least 30 feet or more is mandatory between obstacles to evaluate the horse's way of go at each gait. This class consists of a course pattern with 10 judged maneuvers that consist of 3 gaits (walk, trot, and lope), 3 mandatory obstacles and 4 optional obstacles chosen from the list below by the Event Manager. A combination of two or more obstacles is permissible. The judge may ask a rider to move on to the next obstacle if the horse/rider is unable to complete the maneuver in a reasonable amount of time or if the Judge deems that the rider is, or will be in an unsafe situation. The judge will walk the course and has the right and duty to alter the course if unsafe or unreasonable. If at any time a trail obstacle is deemed unsafe by the judge, it shall be repaired or removed from the course. If it cannot be repaired and horses that have completed the course, the score for that obstacle shall be deducted from all previous works for that class. All courses and obstacles will be constructed with safety in mind to eliminate any possibility of accidents. **1. Mandatory Obstacles**: a) Opening, passing through and closing the **gate**. Use a gate that will not endanger horse or rider. The rein hand may be changed to work the gate without penalty if the change is made prior to and after the gate has been worked. b) **Dismount**, unbridle and bridle, pick up four feet and remount. The horse shall remain quiet while the rider dismounts (hobbles and get downs are permitted), and removes the bit completely from the horse's mouth and re-bridles (romal must show slack in rein), and then picks up all four of the horse's feet. The horse should remain still and quiet as the rider remounts, leaving a loose rein. Exhibitors have the option of using a mounting block to remount. Once the rider is settled into the saddle and is still, the rider may then move the horse forward. **NOTE**: The horse may shift his weight during the process of dismounting and remounting. c) **Log drag** - Horse must be willing to drag a log for a short distance either in a straight line or around a set pattern. Rope should be dallied around the saddle horn and not tied hard and fast. **2. Optional Obstacles**: a) **Water hazard** - The horse should show willingness to cross a small ditch or shallow pond (or simulated water obstacle). b) **Ground Tying** Horses with Romal Reins. The exhibitor may drop reins to ground or unsnap one rein and drop to the ground or loop the reins over the saddle horn with slack in rein without penalty. If a get down rope is used, uncoil and drop to the ground with the Romal Reins looped over the saddle

horn with slack in the rein. c) **Hobble or ground tie** (contestant's option) - The horse shall remain in place while the rider dismounts and performs a normal ranch task such as moving a rail, moving a bale of hay, etc. d) Put on and remove a **slicker** - Rider approaches slicker, removes slicker from holder, puts on slicker and replaces slicker to the holder. e) Remove, carry and replace item - Requires the exhibitor to carry or remove an item that is used every day on horseback such as mail from a **mailbox**, sack, rope, etc. f) **Bridge** - Horse shows willingness to walk across obstacle designed to simulate a bridge. g) **Crossing obstacle** - While mounted the horse would walk over obstacle no more than 18" in height. h) **Ride over at least four logs** - Walking only if laid at odd angles. Laid flat and in measured distances, the measuring point should be the path the horse would be expected to take. Trot over's: 2'6" to 3'6" (measured inside to inside of logs). Lope over's: 6' to 7'. i) **Stationary steer** - This obstacle is used to show the willingness of the horse to have a rope thrown from its back. The judge will give credit to the horse that stands quietly while the contestant makes the swing and throw at the stationary steer. Shying from the rope will be penalized. Credit will be given for good rope handling and a catch. Only one loop will be allowed. Fast and efficient loop build and put away after roping will be rewarded. j) **Back** k) **Sidepass** l) **Crossing unevenly placed brush or logs** - to be judged on willingness to cross with additional credit for picking way through. Minor ticks will not be penalized. **3. Minor Penalties:** a) Horses shall be penalized for any unnecessary delay while approaching or negotiating the obstacles. Horses with artificial appearance over obstacles should be penalized. b) The course must be designed to require each horse to show the three gaits (walk, trot and lope) somewhere between obstacles as a part of its work, and quality of movement and cadence should be considered as part of the maneuver score. While on the line of travel between obstacles, the horse shall be balanced, carrying his head and neck in a relaxed, natural position, with the poll level with or slightly above the withers. The head should not be carried behind the vertical, giving the appearance of intimidation, or be excessively nosed out, giving a resistant appearance. c) Each obstacle will receive a maneuver score that should be added or subtracted from 70 and is subject to a penalty that should be subtracted. Each obstacle will be scored on the following basis, ranging from minus 3 to a plus 3; does not attempt maneuver -7, extremely poor -3, very poor -2, poor -1, correct 0, good +1, very good +2, excellent +3. Obstacle scores are to be determined and assessed independently of penalty points. Penalties should be assessed per occurrence as follows: The following deductions will result: **One/half (1/2) point:** -Each tick of log pole, cone, plant, or any component of the obstacle -Minor ticks crossing uneven placed brush or logs will not be penalized. **One (1) point:** - Each bite or hit of or stepping on a log, cone, plant or any component of the obstacle - Incorrect or break of gait at walk or jog for two strides or less - Both front or hind feet in a single stride slot or space - Skipping over or failing to step into required space - Split pole in lope over - One Step - Ground Tie. **Two (2) Points:** - Two Steps - Ground Tie. **Three (3) Points:** - Incorrect or break of gait at walk or jog for more than 2 strides - Out of lead or break of gait at lope - Knocking down an elevated pole, cone, barrel, plant, obstacle, or severely disturbing an obstacle - 3 Steps - Ground Tie. **Five (5) Points:** - Dropping slicker or object required to be carried on course - First or second cumulative refusal, balk, or evading an obstacle by shying or backing - Letting go of gate or dropping rope gate - Use of either hand to instill fear or praise - Blatant disobedience (including kicking out, bucking, rearing, striking) - More than three steps at Ground Tie. **4. Major Penalties (-10):** - Use of two hands on senior horse or Junior Horse with Curb Bit - Misuse of romal - Missed Pattern - Illegal or failed equipment - Touch Horse or saddle - More than one finger between reins - Riding outside the course area 5. Course Maintenance: Care should be taken by Event Management that the course should be reset after each run to insure each exhibitor is presented with an identical course. (i.e. log/brush spacing, rope coil and log location for log drag, etc.) 6. Does Not Attempt Maneuver (-7): Example – The rider approaches the log drag obstacle and rides past making no attempt to perform: - A -7 Maneuver Score is marked - A -10 Missed Pattern is marked (note, the -10 missed pattern penalty can only be awarded once during the trail class), however, other major penalties of -10 may be incurred (use of two hands with curb bit, more than one finger between the reins, illegal or failed equipment, etc).

ARHA - SECTION O-7. RANCH HORSE TRAIL (Open, Amateur, Youth, Novice Amateur & Novice Youth Divisions Offered) A) This class will be judged on the performance of the horse over obstacles with emphasis on manners, response to the rider and quality of movement. Credit will be given to horses negotiating the obstacles with style and some degree of speed, providing correctness is not sacrificed. **Horses should receive credit for showing attentiveness to the obstacles and the capability of picking their own way through the course when obstacles warrant it, and willingly responding to the rider's cues on more difficult obstacles.** B) When setting up trail course, management should keep in

mind that the idea is not to trap a horse, or eliminate it by making obstacles too difficult. All courses and obstacles are to be constructed with safety in mind in order to eliminate any accidents. C) Horses shall be penalized for any unnecessary delay while approaching or negotiating the obstacles. Horses with artificial appearance over obstacles should be penalized. D) Horses must not be required to work on the rail. **The course must be designed, however, to require each horse to show the three gaits (walk, jog, and lope) somewhere between obstacles as part of its work, and the quality of movement and cadence should be considered as part of the maneuver score.** While on the line of travel between obstacles, the horse shall be balanced, carrying his head and neck in a relaxed, natural position. The head should not be carried behind the vertical, giving the appearance of intimidation, or be excessively nosed out, giving the appearance of resistance. Gaits between obstacles shall be at the discretion of the judge. E) The course to be used must be posted at least one hour before the scheduled starting time of the class. F) The judge should walk the course and has the right and duty to alter the course in any manner. The judge may remove or change any obstacle he deems unsafe or non-negotiable. If at any time a trail obstacle is deemed unsafe by the judge, it shall be repaired or removed from the course. If it cannot be repaired and horses have completed the course, the score for that obstacle shall be deducted from all previous works for that class. G) If disrupted, the course shall be reset. In the case that an obstacle is used in combination, the obstacle cannot be reset until the contestant finishes the entire course. H) **Scoring will be on the basis of 0-infinity, with 70 denoting an average performance. Each obstacle will receive an obstacle score that should be added or subtracted from 70 and each obstacle is subject to a penalty that should be subtracted. I) Each obstacle will be scored on the following basis, ranging from plus (+) 1½ to minus (-) 1½ : -1½ = extremely poor; -1 = very poor; -½ = poor; 0 = correct; +½ = good; +1 = very good; +1½ = excellent. Obstacle scores are to be determined and assessed independently of penalty points. Penalties should be assessed per occurrence as follows: 1/2 Point Penalty** a) Each tick of log, pole cone or obstacle. **1 Point Penalty** a) Each hit of or stepping on log, pole, cone or obstacle. b) Incorrect break gait at walk or jog for two strides or less. c) Both front or hind feet in a single-strided slot or space at walk or jog. d) Skipping over or failing to step into required space. e) Split pole on lope over. f) Incorrect number of strides, if specified. **3 Point Penalty** a) Incorrect or break of gait at walk or jog for more than two strides. b) Out of lead or break of gait at lope c) Knocking down an elevated pole, cone, barrel, plant, obstacle or severely disturbing an obstacle. d) Fall or jumping off or out of bridge or water box with one foot once the horse has gotten onto or into that obstacle. e) Stepping outside the confines of an obstacle with designated Boundaries (ie: back through. 360 box, side pass) with one foot once the horse has entered the obstacle. f) Missing or evading pole that is part of a series of an obstacle. **5 Point Penalty** a) Dropping object required to be carried on course. b) First and second cumulative refusal, balk or attempting to evade an obstacle. A Refusal is addressing an obstacle and taking two or more steps backwards. c) Letting go of the gate or dropping the rope gate. d) Use of hand to instill fear or praise. e) Ground tie - second rein not touching ground. f) Stepping outside the confines of, falling or jumping off or out of an obstacle with designated boundaries with more than one foot once the foot has entered the obstacle; including missing one element of an obstacle on a line of travel with two feet. g) Blatant disobedience (kicking out, bucking, rearing or striking). h) Holding or touching the saddle with either hand. i) Failure to demonstrate correct gait between obstacle as designated. j) **FAULTS-** which occur on the line of travel between obstacles, are to be scored according to severity: 1. Head carriage too high or too low. 2. Over-flexing or straining neck in carriage so the nose is carried behind the vertical. 3. Excessive nosing out. 4. Opening mouth excessively. SECTION O-9. **DISQUALIFICATIONS:** 1) Use of more than one finger between reins. 2) Use of two hands (except for snaffle bit/hackamore/mecate as designated for two hand) or changing hands on reins; except for junior horses shown with snaffle/hackamore/mecate, only one hand may be used on the reins, except when it is permissible to change hand to work an obstacle. 3) Willful abuse or any inhumane treatment of horse. 4) Use of romal other than outlined in the rule book. 5) Performing the obstacle incorrectly or other than in the specified order or no attempt to perform the obstacle. 6) Equipment failures that delay completion of pattern. 7) Fall to the ground by horse or rider. 8) Failure to enter, exit or work obstacle from the correct direction, including more than 1/4 turn. 9) Failure to follow the correct line of travel between obstacles and/or work obstacles in any manner other than how it's described by the course. Riding 65 outside the designated boundary markers. 10) Third cumulative refusal, balk, or evading an obstacle by shying or backing. 11) Gate must be open and closed, failure to leave gate as found will result in disqualification. 12) Failure to dismount to load and unload at the trailer. H) Show management, when setting courses, should keep in mind that the idea is not to trap a horse, or eliminate it by making an obstacle too difficult. All courses and obstacles are to be

constructed with safety in mind so as to eliminate any accidents. When the distances and spaces are measured between all obstacles, the inside base to inside base measurement of each obstacle considering the normal path of the horse, should be the measuring point. Enough space must be provided for a horse to jog [at least 30 feet] and lope [at least 50 feet] for judges to evaluate these gaits. I) If disrupted, the course shall be reset. In the case that an obstacle is used in combination, the obstacle cannot be reset until the contestant finishes the entire obstacles. J) A minimum 6 obstacles must be used, three of which must be from the mandatory list of obstacles and at least three others elected from the list of optional obstacles.

SECTION O-10. MANDATORY OBSTACLES

1. The **Gate** - A contestant must open, go through and then close a gate. Reins may not be switched between hands unless done prior to or immediately after this obstacle. Gate must be open and closed, failure to leave gate as found will result in disqualification.
2. **Stationary Steer** - This obstacle is used to show the willingness of the horse to have a rope thrown from its back. The judge shall give credit to the horse that stands quietly while the competitor makes the swing and throws at the steer. The Contestant shall not be penalized for a miss but shall receive credit for the horse being in correct position and standing quietly. Shying from rope will be penalized.
- 2a. Exhibitor has the option to carry their own rope (and as they approach steer may build loop) or be handed a coiled rope (without loop). All Exhibitors are required to build own loop. Fast and efficient loop build and put away after roping should be rewarded. Only one loop will be allowed.
3. **Trailer** - A contestant must show that a horse will load and unload quietly, safely and easily from a normal covered stock trailer or horse trailer with secure footing. Exhibitor must dismount to load and unload, failure to do so is a disqualification.

SECTION O-11. OPTIONAL OBSTACLES:

1. **Mail Box** - Rider approaches mailbox, opens and then closes the door.
2. **Slicker** - Rider approaches slicker, removes slicker from holder, wears slicker and then travels to second holder, where he removes the slicker and replaces it on the holder.
3. **Water Hazard** - Horse shows willingness to cross small ditch or shallow pond.
4. **Bridge** - Horse shows willingness to walk across obstacle designed to simulate a bridge.
5. **Log Drag** - Rider will be handed or pick up rope and drag log according to posted pattern to show horse's willingness and ability to pull. Once the circle is completed, the rider will drop the rope and continue to next obstacle.
6. **"L" Shaped Back Through** - Course made of logs or poles laid on the ground. Minimum space between poles to be 28".
7. **Ground Tie or Hobble** - Horse shall remain in place while his rider dismounts and performs a normal ranch task. Split reins - both reins must touch the ground. If using romal reins the horse must be hobbled or use of a neck rope to ground tie.
8. **Side pass** - Logs or poles used must be a minimum of six feet long. Obstacles may be approached from either end and horse may be required to move both directions and such information is to be stated on posted pattern.
9. **Obstacle containing four (4) logs** - Each being 5'(minimum) to 6' long laid in a square and execute a 180 or 360 degree turn and then leave square or lope through the square providing the rails are 6' to 7' in length and no more than 12" high. The pattern must state which is required.
10. **Logs - Three logs** will be placed on ground that the contestant must cross. Walk over 15"-24" Trot over - 2'6" to 3'6" Lope over - 6' to 7'
11. **Obstacles consisting of cones or pylons** - Horse is to trot through in either a cloverleaf or serpentine pattern or back through as posted on pattern. Markers are to be spaced a least 3' apart.
12. **Any other safe and negotiable obstacle** which could reasonably be expected to be encountered on a trail ride and that meets the approval of the judge may be used.
13. **A combination of two or more of any obstacle is acceptable.**

SECTION O-12. UNACCEPTABLE OBSTACLES:

- 1) Tires .
- 2) Animals other than cattle.
- 3) Hides.
- 4) PVC pipes.
- 5) Jumps.
- 6) Rocking or moving bridges.
- 7) Water box with floating or moving parts.
- 8) Flames, dry ice, fire extinguishers, etc.
- 9) Logs or poles elevated in a manner that permits them to roll in a dangerous manner.

DEFINITION OF RANCH REINING

with each association - straight from their most current rule book as of 3-1-17.

AQHA VRH SHW562.VRH RANCH REINING. The ranch reining class measures the ability of the ranch horse to perform basic handling maneuvers with a natural head carriage in a forward looking manner. Patterns may be chosen from any of the ranch reining patterns or approved by the show management and judge. SHW562.1 **CREDITS AND PENALTIES.** All runs begin upon entering the pen and any infractions are subject to penalty at that time such as two hands on the reins, using either hand to instill fear or praise, etc. SHW 562.2 To rein a horse is not only to guide him but also to control his every movement. The best reined horse should be willingly guided or controlled with little or no apparent resistance and dictated to completely. Any movement on his own must be considered a lack of control. All deviations from the exact written pattern must be considered a lack of or temporary loss of control and therefore a fault that must be marked down according to severity of deviation. The horse/rider team's overall performance should be credited for smoothness, finesse, attitude, quickness and authority of performing various maneuvers while using controlled speed which raises the degree of difficulty and makes the horse/rider team more exciting and pleasing to watch. SHW562.3 **PENALTIES:** - **One-half (1/2) Penalties:** Starting a circle or exiting a rollback at a trot for up to two (2) strides; delayed change of lead by one stride where the lead change is required by the pattern description; failure to remain a minimum of twenty feet from the wall or fence when approaching a stop and/or roll-back; over-spin or under-spin up to 1/8 turn. - **1 Point Penalties:** Out of lead in the circles, figure eights or around the end of the arena (this penalty is cumulative and will be deducted for each quarter of a circle the horse is out of lead); Over or under spinning 1/8 to 1/4 turn. Slipping rein. - **2 Point Penalties:** Break of gait; freeze up in spins or rollbacks; failure to stop or walk before executing a lope departure on trot-in patterns; failure to be in a lope prior to the first marker on run-in patterns; failure to completely pass the specified marker before initiating a stop position, trotting beyond strides, but less than 1/2 circle or 1/2 length of the arena. - **5 Point Penalties:** Spurring in front of cinch; blatant disobedience; use of either hand to instill fear/praise; use of two hands per maneuver; more than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins per maneuver (except two rein). - Excess rein may be straightened anytime during the pattern, provided the rider's free hand remains behind the rein hand. Any attempt to alter tension or length of the reins from the bridle to the rein hand is considered use of two hands and a penalty score of – 5 will be applied. - **Off-Pattern (OP):** breaking pattern; inclusion of maneuver (e.g. over or under-spinning, backing more than two (2) strides, etc.); leaving arena before pattern is complete; repeated blatant disobedience; Exhibitors cannot place above others who complete the pattern correctly. - **Disqualification (DQ):** Lameness; abuse; illegal equipment; disrespect or misconduct; improper western attire; fall of horse/rider.

APHA RANCH REINING *APHA uses the rules of either Stock Horse of Texas (SHOT) or American Stock Horse Association (ASHA) for conducting and judging their ranch horse classes, including Ranch Reining. *See SHOT – EV-223 STOCK HORSE REINING (AQHA VRH Ranch Reining) or ASHA – EV-120 ASHA STOCK HORSE REINING CLASS.

SHOT – EV-223 STOCK HORSE REINING (AQHA VRH Ranch Reining) This Stock Horse Reining Class measures the ability of the stock horse to perform basic handling maneuvers. SHTX has several recognized regular patterns (please see "Patterns"). Each pattern is a combination of maneuvers and these maneuvers include: • **Stops:** Stops are the act of slowing the horse from a lope to a stop position. The horse enters the stop position by rounding its back, bringing the hind legs further under the body while maintaining forward motion and ground contact and cadence with front legs. Throughout the stop, the horse continues in a straight line while maintaining ground contact with the hind feet. • **Spins:** Spins are cadenced 360-degree turns executed with the inside hind quarter (pivot) remaining stationary. Spins shall be smooth and efficient. The location of the hind quarters shall be fixed at the start of the spin. The horse shall stop the

spin exactly as dictated by the pattern description. The right and left spins shall have a similar speed and balance. •

Rollbacks: Rollbacks are the 180-degree reversal of forward motion completed by running to a stop, rolling (turning) the shoulders back to the opposite direction over the hocks and departing in one continuous motion. There should be no hesitation; however, a slight pause to regain footing or balance should not be deemed hesitation. The horse should not step ahead or backup prior to rolling back. •

Circles: Circles are maneuvers at the lope, of designated size and speed, which demonstrate control, willingness to guide, and degree of difficulty in speed and speed variations. Circles must at all times be run in the geographical area of the arena specified in the pattern description. There must be a clearly defined difference in the speed and size of a small, slow circle and a large, fast circle. Symmetry is credit-earning (i.e., speeds and shapes to the left and right should be consistent). •

Backups: A backup is a maneuver requiring the horse to be moved in a reverse motion in a straight line over a required distance of at least ten feet or as the pattern designates. •

Hesitate: To hesitate is the act of demonstrating the horse's ability to stand in a relaxed manner at a designated time in a pattern. In a hesitation, the horse is required to remain motionless and relaxed. Reining patterns require a hesitation at the end of the pattern to demonstrate completion. •

Lead Changes: Lead changes are the act of changing the leading legs of the front and rear pairs of legs. The lead change must be executed at a lope with no change of gait or speed and be performed in the exact geographical position in the arena specified in the pattern description. Credit-earning lead changes will be change of front and rear leads taking place within the same stride. •

Run Downs: Run downs are runs through the middle of the arena, along the side, or ends of the arena. Run downs demonstrate control and gradual increase in speed to the stop. EV-223.1

Credits and Penalties All runs begin upon entering the pen; any infractions (such as two hands on the reins, using either hand to instill fear or praise, etc.) are subject to penalty at that time. **To rein a horse is not only to guide him, but also to control his every movement. The best reined horse should be willingly guided or controlled with little or no apparent resistance and dictated to completely.** Any movement on his own must be considered a lack of control. All deviations from the exact written pattern must be considered a lack of, or temporary loss of, control and therefore a fault that must be marked down according to severity of deviation. The horse/rider team's overall performance should be credited for smoothness, finesse, attitude, quickness and authority of performing various maneuvers, while using controlled speed which raises the difficulty level and makes the horse/rider team more exciting and pleasing to watch. **Penalties** will be assessed as follows: •

½ Point Penalties: Starting a circle or exiting a rollback at a trot for up to two strides; Delayed change of lead by one stride where the lead change is required by the pattern description; Failure to remain a minimum of twenty feet from the wall or fence when approaching a stop and/or rollback (except in Novice/ Youth Reining Pattern #1); Over-spin or under-spin up to 1/8 turn. •

1 Point Penalties: Out of lead in the circles, figure eights, or around the end of the arena (this penalty is cumulative and will be deducted for each quarter of a circle the horse is out of lead); Over or under spinning 1/8 to 1/4 turn. Slipping rein. •

2 Point Penalties: Break of gait; Freeze up in spins or rollbacks; Failure to stop or walk before executing a lope departure on trot-in patterns; Failure to be in a lope prior to the first marker on run-in patterns; Failure to completely pass the specified marker before initiating a stop position; When starting a circle, rundown or exiting a rollback, trotting beyond two strides but less than ½ circle or ½ length of arena. •

5 Point Penalties: Spurring in front of cinch; Blatant disobedience; Use of either hand to instill fear/praise; Use of two hands (except in snaffle bit or hackamore) per maneuver; More than one finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins (except two rein) per maneuver. •

Off-Pattern (OP): Breaking pattern; Repeated disobedience; Leaving working area before pattern is complete; Cannot place above others who complete pattern correctly. •

Disqualification (DQ): Lameness; Abuse; Illegal equipment; Disrespect or misconduct; Fall of horse/ rider (run ends; scores will be given for work done but the horse/rider team will be disqualified and will not be placed), Improper western attire. Disqualified entries are counted as an entry in the class but cannot receive points or credits for that class toward the all around. •

Excess rein may be straightened anytime during the pattern, provided the rider's free hand remains behind the rein hand. Any attempt to alter tension or length of the reins from bridle to the rein hand is to be considered use of two hands and a five point penalty will be applied. EV-223.2

Patterns will be chosen from the SHTX Rulebook, or other patterns approved by show management. Patterns may be modified to be lope in patterns. Patterns that start with the circles may be used as lope to center patterns when posted as such by show management. Rider has the option to lope through the gate or walk through the gate and, without trotting, pick up the correct lead within the first quarter circle. Continue loping around the circle to the center of arena. At the center, without stopping or breaking gait, begin pattern. When using a lope to

center pattern, judging of the pattern will begin at the center of arena. Penalties occurring while loping to the center of arena to begin pattern will be assessed.

ASHA – EV-120 ASHA STOCK HORSE REINING CLASS. This class measures the ability of the western stock horse to perform many basic handling maneuvers. The American Stock Horse Association has five recognized regular patterns plus two Novice & Youth Patterns. The patterns are broken down into either 7 or 8 maneuvers to be scored a maximum of 10 points each. A. These maneuvers include: **STOPS** Stops are the act of slowing the horse from a lope to a stop position by bringing the hind legs under the horse in a locked position sliding on the hind feet. The horse should enter the stop position by bending the back, bringing the hind legs further under the body while maintaining forward motion and ground contact and cadence with front legs. Throughout the stop, the horse should continue in a straight line while maintaining ground contact with the hind feet. **SPINS** Spins are a series of 360-degree turns, executed over a stationary (inside) hind leg. Propulsion for the spin is supplied by the outside rear leg and front legs and contact should be made with the ground and a front leg. The location of hindquarters should be fixed at the start of the spin and maintained throughout the spins. **ROLLBACKS** Rollbacks are the 180 degree reversal of forward motion completed by running to a stop, rolling (turning) the shoulders back to the opposite direction over the hocks and departing in a canter, as one continuous motion. There should be no hesitation; however, a slight pause to regain footing or balance should not be deemed hesitation. The horse should not step ahead or backup prior to rolling back. **CIRCLES** Circles are maneuvers at the lope, of designated size and speed, which demonstrate control, willingness to guide and degree of difficulty in speed and speed changes. Circles must at all times be run in the geographical area of the arena specified in the pattern description and must have a common center point. There must be a clearly defined difference in the speed and size of a small, slow circle and a large, fast circle and the speeds to the left and right should be consistent. **BACKUPS** A backup is a maneuver requiring the horse to be moved in a reverse motion in a straight line a required distance at least 10 feet. **HESITATE** To hesitate is the act of demonstrating the horse's ability to stand in a relaxed manner at a designated time in a pattern. In a hesitation, the horse is required to remain motionless and relaxed. Reining patterns require a hesitation at the end of the pattern to demonstrate to the judge(s) the completion of the pattern. **LEAD CHANGES** Lead changes are the act of changing the leading legs of the front and rear pairs of legs, at a lope, when changing the direction traveled. The lead change must be executed at a lope with no change of gait or speed and be performed in the exact geographical position in the arena specified in the pattern description. The change of front and rear lead must take place within the same stride to avoid deductions. **RUN DOWNS AND RUN AROUNDS** Run downs are runs through the middle of the arena, and runs along the side and ends of the arena. Run downs and run-arounds should demonstrate control and gradual increase in speed to the stop. **B. Scoring Stock Horse Reining. Credits:** +Overall smoothness of pattern, +Degree of difficulty exhibited by stops, spins, and rollbacks and speed in circles and run-outs, +Horse should guide willingly without undue resistance, +Lack of set-ups or anticipations in the execution of any of the maneuvers, +Exhibiting finesse, attitude, quickness, authority and controlled speed while completing a correct maneuver. **Deductions:** to be subtracted from maneuver scores are as follows **Five Point Deductions:** 1) Blatant disobediences, including kicking, bucking or rearing. 2) Spurring in front of cinch or the use of either hand to instill fear or praise. **Two Point Deductions:** 1) Break of gait. 2) Freeze up in spins or rollbacks. A freeze up is any time the lateral movement of the horse's shoulders is completely stopped and has to be restarted to complete the maneuver. 3) In trot in patterns, failure to stop or walk before executing a canter departure. 4) In run patterns, failure to be at a canter before first marker. 5) Failure to completely pass a specified marker before initiating a stop. 6) Using two hands on a curb bit or using more than one finger between split reins or any finger between romal reins will result in a two-point run content deduction each time there is a violation. The free hand may be used to straighten excess rein at any place a horse is allowed to be completely stopped during a pattern. 7) Over or under spinning of more than one-fourth turn. 8) Jogging more than two strides to start circles or exit rollbacks. **One Point Deductions:** 1) Each time a horse is out of lead. Penalties are cumulative for each occurrence and each on-fourth circle. **One-half Point Deduction:** 1) Jogging less than two strides to start circles or exit rollbacks. 2) Failure to maintain a minimum of twenty feet from wall of fence for stops or rollbacks on standard patterns with the exception of Novice & Youth Pattern #1. 3) For one stride delayed lead change.

NVRHA – 1) Working Ranch - Reining: a) Anyone of the five approved reining patterns may be used and is to be selected by the Event Manager/Judge of the class and used by all contestants in all divisions. Each contestant will perform the required pattern individually and separately. c) To rein a horse is not only to guide him, but also to control his every movement. The best reined horse should be willingly guided or controlled with little or no apparent resistance and dictated to completely. Any movement on his own must be considered a lack of control. All deviations from the exact written pattern must be considered a lack of or temporary loss of control, and therefore faulted according to severity of deviation. Credit will be given for smoothness, finesse, attitude, quickness, and authority in performing the various maneuvers while using controlled speed. d) The individual maneuvers are scored in one-point increments from a low of -3 to a high of +3. e) Excess rein may be straightened at any place a horse is allowed to be completely stopped during a pattern; rider's free hand may be used to hold romal in the normal fashion. **Penalties:** a) **Minor Penalties: Half (1/2) and One (1) Point Penalties:** 1. Starting or performing circles or eights out of lead will be judged as follows: a) Each time a horse is out of lead, a judge is required to deduct one (1) point. b) The penalty for being out of lead is accumulative and the judge will deduct one (1) point for each quarter of the circumference of a circle or any part thereof that a horse is out of lead. 2. A judge is required to penalize a horse one half (1/2) point for a delayed change of lead by one stride where the lead change is required by the pattern description. 3. Deduct one half (1/2) point for starting circle at a jog or exiting rollbacks at a jog up to two (2) strides. 4. Deduct one half point (1/2) for over or under spinning up to one eighth (1/8) of a turn; deduct one (1) point for over or underpinning from one-eighth to one-fourth (1/8 to 1/4) turn. 5. Deduct one-half point (1/2) for failure to remain 20' from fence on approach to stops and rollbacks. **Two (2) Points Penalties:** 1. Break of gait 2. Freeze up in spins or rollbacks 3. On walk-in patterns, failure to stop or walk before executing a canter departure 4. On trot in patterns, failure to stop before lope departure 5. On run-in patterns, failure to be in a canter prior to the first marker 6. Failure to pass marker before stop. 7. Jogging beyond two (2) strides, but less than one half (1/2) circle or one half (1/2) length of the arena **Five (5) Point Penalties:** 1. Spurring in front of the cinch 2. Use of either hand to instill fear or praise 3. Holding saddle with either hand 4. Blatant disobediences including kicking, biting, bucking, rearing and striking c) **Major Penalties (-10):** 1. Use of more than index or first finger between reins 2. Use of two hands 3. Deliberate spurring or use of the romal forward of the cinch 4. Missed pattern 5. The inclusion of maneuvers not specified, including backing more than 2 strides 6. Turning more than 90 degrees 7. Equipment failure that delays completion of pattern; including dropping a rein that contacts the ground while horse is in motion. 8. Jogging in excess of one-half circle or one-half the length of the arena 9. Over spins of more than 1/4 turn 10. Fall to the ground by horse or rider 11. Use of 2 hands on the reins in a bridle or two rein 12. Fingers between the reins in a bridle class ****except the two rein & one finger (index) allowed in split reins**** 13. Misuse of Romal.

ARHA – Q-1. RANCH REINING (Available all divisions.) This class denotes the ability of the ranch horse to be reined willfully through all maneuvers of the patterns. Contestant should not be penalized for reining their horse through the pattern in a reasonable manner. Stops should be hard and deep as if needed to stop and go in the other direction. Stop should be square and done without resistance (it should be at the judge's discretion on what he/she considers an excessive slide. Excessive stops beyond 10 feet should be minuses in 1/2 point increments. Turn arounds should be those of a working horse. They should be correct and job efficient. Q-2. **PENALTY POINTS 1/2 Point** A) Failing to remain more than 20 feet from the fence when stopping or performing a rollback. B) In run to end, failure to change leads by 1 stride. C) Starting a lope departure at a jog or exiting rollbacks up to two (2) strides. D) Delaying changes of lead by 1 stride. E) Over or under spinning by one-eighth (1/8) turn. **1 Point** A) Each time a horse is out of lead, a judge is required to deduct one point. The penalty for being out of lead is cumulative and the Judge will deduct one (1) penalty point for each quarter (1/4) of the circumference of a circle or any part thereof that a horse is out of lead. A judge is required to penalize a horse one-half (1/2) point for a delay change of lead by one stride. B) Over or under spinning by one-fourth (1/4) turn. C) Failure to be on the correct lead in run-down. D) During the run around arena, failure to change lead beyond 1 stride before half way, but prior to next maneuver. **2 Points** A) Break of gait. B) During the run around, failure the change lead prior to next maneuver. C) Jogging beyond 2 strides, but less than half (1/2) circle or half (1/2) the

length of the arena. D) Failure to go beyond the markers. E) Freezing up in spins or rollbacks. **5 Points** A) Spurring in front of the cinch. B) Use of free hand to instill fear. C) Holding saddle with free hand. D) Kicking out. 0 Score A) Failure to complete pattern. B) Performing maneuvers in unspecified order. C) Inclusion of additional maneuvers. (Backing more than two (2) strides or turning more than 90°) D) Equipment failures. E) Balking or running away. F) Jogging more than half (1/2) circle or half (1/2) arena length while starting a circle, circling or executing rollback. G) Over spins of more than one-fourth (1/4) turn. H) Fall to ground by horse or rider. I) More than one finger between reins or more than one (1) hand on reins except for junior horses ridden with snaffle, hackamore or mecate with snaffle. J) Blatant disobedience, bucking, rearing, etc. **Faults not to be considered disqualification but should be scored according to severity:** a) Crooked backs & stops. b) Anticipating stops. c) Uncontrollable speed. d) Wringing of tail. e) Knocking over markers. f) Failure to run pattern within marker. g) Failure to go past markers on said pattern. h) Opening mouth, raising head on stops and turns.

DEFINITION OF RANCH HORSE CONFORMATION

with each association - straight from their most current rule book as of 3-1-17.

AQHA VRH SHW566. VRH RANCH CONFORMATION. The purpose of ranch conformation is to preserve American Quarter Horse type by selecting well-mannered individuals in the order of their resemblance to the breed ideal and that are the most positive combination of balance, structural correctness, and movement with appropriate breed and sex characteristics and adequate muscling. The ranch conformation class must be held after the conclusion of the other events, except at the AQHA All-Around Ranch Horse World Championship Show. SHW566.1 To be eligible to compete in the ranch conformation class the horse must be shown in at least one class in one of the other categories the day of the show. SHW566.2 All horses will be shown together as one class: - Open/Amateur: stallions, mares and geldings - Youth/Level 1 amateur: mares and geldings SGW566.3 Horses are to be shown in a good working halter: rope, braided, nylon or plain leather. Horses will walk to the judge one at a time. SHW566.4 As the horse approaches, the judge will step to the right to enable the horse to trot straight to a cone placed 50 feet away. At the cone, the horse will continue trotting, turn to the left and trot toward the left wall or fence of the arena. After trotting, horses will be lined up head to tail for individual inspection by the judge. SHW566.5 The judge shall inspect each horse from both sides, front and rear and place the horses in order of preference.

APHA, SHOT, ASHA – do not offer Ranch Horse Conformation.

NVRHA I. Ranch Conformation The purpose of this class is to select horses that are the most positive combination of form (balance, way of going and structure, substance/muscle, and conformation features) -to-function (as demonstrated in Ranch Cutting, Working Ranch Horse, Ranch Trail, and Ranch Riding) **1. Form:** 60% of the Ranch Conformation Score will be evaluated by the judge individually. Balance, way of going and structure, substance/muscle, head and neck, shoulders/withers/heart girth, and hip/loin/back will be rated on a scale from below average to excellent. Credit can be earned for good conditioning, showmanship and manners. **2. Function:** The remaining 40% of the Ranch Conformation Score will be determined by the horse/rider team's performance in Ranch Riding, Ranch Trail, Ranch Cutting and Working Ranch Horse during the performance classes of the schooling competition. 10% of each class performance score will be added to the Structural Correctness and Balance Scores. The Total Ranch Conformation Score will be the addition of the Structural Correctness Score (legs) plus the Balance Score (form) and the Function Score (10% of Cutting-Working-Trail-Riding Scores). **3. Grooming:** No hoof polish, braided manes, or tail extensions are allowed. Trimming inside the ear is discouraged. Trimming bridal paths, fetlocks or facial hair is allowed. **4. Ranch Form Conformation Judging:** All horses will be judged individually, one horse in the arena being judged one at a time with dismissal from the arena once the judge completes judging. The exhibitor will walk the horse to the judge from the start cone, square the horse for inspection and maintain the horse both square and alert with balanced weight on all four legs during the judge's evaluation. Upon the judges instruction, the exhibitor will trot the horse to a designated cone, turning 90° at the cone and continue trotting to a second cone, again turning 90° at the second cone and continue trotting to a third cone where he/she will stop and again square the horse for inspection. Upon the signal from the judge, the horse and exhibitor will be excused from the arena. **5. Credits** a) Conditioning: Horses should be fit. They should be in proper weight and muscle tone with a healthy hair coat and proper shoeing. Judges may score from a -3 very poor to a +3 excellent for that element. Conditioning is an element that can be improved upon by the rider with proper attention and practice. b) Showmanship: Horse should be exhibited to the judge in a manner in which the judge can easily examine all conformation features. The walk to the Judge should be direct and straight. The Square for Examination should be accomplished quickly with all four feet as square as possible, with the horse alert with weight evenly distributed. The trot should be upon command and of even speed. The horse should be well mannered at all times. Judges may score from a -3 very poor to a +3 excellent for that element. Showmanship is an element that can be improved upon by the rider with proper attention and practice.

ARHA SECTION J-1: RANCH HORSE CONFORMATION A) The horse will be judged on type, conformation correctness, and athletic ability with the all around equine in mind. Ranch Horse Conformation is defined as the physical attributes necessary to perform under saddle in multiple ARHA events. The ideal standard in evaluating horses in conformation should include but not limited to soundness and correctness in conformation, particularly feet and legs with emphasis on correct manner of travel including athletic ability and the “appearance of” agility. The horse should possess eye appeal with an attractive head; refined throat-latch; well-proportioned trim neck; long sloping shoulder; deep heart girth; short back; strong loin and coupling; long hip and croup. The horse should show balance and uniform muscling with enough athletic ability to perform different tasks on the ranch and ARHA events. Horses should be strong boned and have an appearance of durability. B) Horses are not penalized for scars or brands. C) All stallions two years and older shall have two visible testicles. Crypt orchids will be excused from the ring prior to the final placing by the judge. D) Only mares and stallions will be examined for parrot mouth and those found to exhibit same will be excused from the ring prior to the final placing by the judge. E) All lame horses will be excused from the ring prior to the final placing by the judge. Refer to Section I-22. SECTION J-2. CONFORMATION EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS: A) In conformation classes, horses are to be shown in good working halter; rope, braided, nylon or plain leather. No silver will be allowed on halters. Any silver on halters will result in an automatic disqualification. Brass name plates and embroidered halters will be allowed. B) Lip chains, splint boots, leg wraps or bandages are prohibited in any conformation classes. The use of shin and/or bell boots on the front legs and standard sliding rundown boots on rear fetlocks is optional in individual working classes unless otherwise noted. In the event of injury the judge may permit a protective bandage. C) Banded or braided manes and braided tails and tie-in tails and/or extensions are not allowed. D) Fresh hoof black, hoof polish and/or oil is not allowed and will result in the horse being disqualified from the class. E) The horse should be clean and brushed. It is recommended that a horse should be shown as naturally as possible. F) Banded or braided manes, braided tails, tie-in tails and/or extensions are not allowed. (Exception: Braided manes will be allowed in roping and speed events.)